

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 10-14 have been added. By the above amendment, the specification and claims have been amended to place the application in better form for examination. New claims 10-14 have been added to further define the invention. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

**Conclusion**

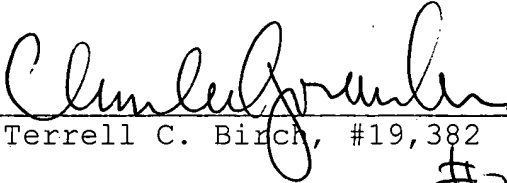
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

<sup>SW</sup>  
TCB/STW/lab  
0020-5252PUS1

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

#29271